

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01
INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01
PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05
NRC-05 ERDE-00 /094 W
-----152002Z 095406 /41

P R 151836Z APR 77

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2098

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY ANKARA BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK BY POUCH

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0202

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD APRIL 11-15

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE ELEVENTH ROUND OF THE VIENNA FORCE
REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS ENDED APRIL 15, WITH THE DISCREPANCY
BETWEEN DATA SUBMITTED BY THE EAST AND NATO ESTIMATES OF
WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS
UNRESOLVED. WESTERN REPS MADE CLEAR THEY WERE NOT SATISFIED

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THAT THE EAST HAD ACTUALLY USED THE SAME COUNTING RULES AS
THE WEST OR APPLIED THEM IN THE SAME WAY. EASTERN REPS
STRESSED THAT OFFICIAL DATA NOW ON THE TABLE SHOWED
APPROXIMATE EQUALITY OF WARSAW PACT AND NATO PERSONNEL
STRENGTHS IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND THIS PROVIDED A BASIS FOR
ACCEPTANCE OF THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL AND OF THE EASTERN
APPROACH TO REDUCTIONS. QUESTIONS POSED BY THE TASS CORRESPONDENT

AT THE END-OF-ROUND PRESS CONFERENCES CONTAINED THE FIRST PUBLIC REFERENCES IN VIENNA TO THE EASTERN PROPOSAL THAT NATIONAL MANPOWER FIGURES BE PRESENTED SIMULTANEOUSLY FOR EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT. END SUMMARY

2. THE ELEVENTH ROUND OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS ENDED THIS WEEK. BOTH WEST AND EAST MADE STATEMENTS AT THE CONCLUDING PLENARY MEETING ON APRIL 15. THE WESTERN PRESENTATION, DELIVERED BY US REP, (A) CITED THE UNREALITY OF THE EASTERN REDUCTION APPROACH AS A PRINCIPLE OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS IN THE TALKS, (B) REVIEWED THE RESULTS OF THE DATA DISCUSSION TO DATE, EMPHASIZING THE NEED TO SETTLE THE AS YET UNRESOLVED DISCREPANCY BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN FIGURES FOR WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER IN CENTRAL EUROPE, (C) EXPLAINED WHY THE EASTERN PROPOSAL FOR AN IMMEDIATE PERSONNEL FREEZE WAS UNACCEPTABLE AND (D) AGAIN URGED THE EAST TO OPEN THE WAY TO AN AGREEMENT BY PROVIDING THE SERIOUS AND POSITIVE RESPONSE MERITED BY THE DECEMBER 1975 WESTERN PROPOSALS.

3. THE EASTERN PLENARY PRESENTATION WAS MADE BY SOVIET REP TARASOV. HE STRESSED THAT OFFICIAL DATA NOW ON THE TABLE SHOWED THAT THE PERSONNEL STRENGTH OF WARSAW PACT AND NATO FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE WAS APPROXIMATELY EQUAL AND THAT THE WEST HAD FAILED TO PROVE ITS CLAIMS TO THE CONTRARY. SOVIET REP STRONGLY ATTACKED THE WESTERN APPROACH TO REDUCTIONS ALONG STANDARD LINES, NOTING THAT IT WAS PREMISED ON UNPROVEN FORCE DISPARITIES AND SOUGHT, IN REALITY, TO UPSET THE EXISTING EQUILIBRIUM OF FORCES IN THE AREA TO THE DETRIMENT OF EASTERN SECURITY. TARASOV SAID THE RELUCTANCE OF THE WEST TO PROVIDE

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NATIONAL MANPOWER FIGURES FOR WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OTHER THAN THE US INTENSIFIED EASTERN SUSPICION THAT THESE OTHER WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WISHED TO AVOID REDUCTIONS. GIVEN THE APPROXIMATE PARITY THAT ALREADY MARKED THE EXISTING EAST-WEST FORCE RELATIONSHIP IN CENTRAL EUROPE, TARASOV STATED THAT THE EQUAL PERCENTAGE APPROACH TO REDUCTIONS EMBODIED IN THE EAST'S PROPOSALS OF FEBRUARY 1976 WOULD LEAD TO AN EQUITABLE AGREEMENT IN CONFORMITY WITH AGREED PRINCIPLES. ACCORDING TO TARASOV, THOSE PROPOSALS HAD ADEQUATELY ANSWERED THE DECEMBER 1975 WESTERN INITIATIVE AND IT WAS NOW THE WEST WHO OWED THE EAST A REPLY. MEANWHILE, TARASOV CALLED ONCE MORE FOR WESTERN ACCEPTANCE OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL THAT PARTICIPANTS AGREE NOW NOT TO INCREASE THE PERSONNEL STRENGTH OF THEIR FORCES IN THE AREA FOR THE DURATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

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P R 151836Z APR 77

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2099

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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FROM US REP MBFR

4. THE TASS CORRESPONDENT AT THE REGULAR END-OF-ROUND PRESS CONFERENCES ASKED THE WESTERN SPOKESMAN WHY WEST HAD REJECTED THE EASTERN PROPOSAL THAT SEPARATE MANPOWER DATA BE TABLED FOR EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT. IN REPLY, HE WAS INFORMED OF THE WESTERN SUGGESTION THAT SUCH FIGURES BE INTRODUCED FOR US AND SOVIET FORCES AND THAT THE WEST HAD NOT PRECLUDED ANY STEP THAT MIGHT ADVANCE THE DISCUSSION OF DATA. LATER, THE TASS REPORTER REPOSED THIS OBVIOUSLY PLANTED QUESTION IN INVITING THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN TO EXPLAIN THE WESTERN REFUSAL TO EXCHANGE NATIONAL MAN-

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POWER FIGURES FOR EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT. THE EASTERN SOKESMAN SAID THAT IT WAS UP TO THE WEST TO PROVIDE AN ANSWER, BUT THAT EASTERN PARTICIPANTS CONSIDERED SUCH A MOVE WOULD BE USEFUL. THE PREPARED EASTERN PRESS STATEMENT SUMMARIZED THE MAIN

THEMES OF TARASOV'S PLENARY PRESENTATION. IT MENTIONED THAT OFFICIAL DATA NOW INTRODUCED INTO THE TALKS MADE THE EASTERN NON-INCREASE PROPOSAL TOPICAL AND SUBSTANTIATED THE EASTERN VIEW THAT THERE WAS APPROXIMATELY EQUALITY IN THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF WARSAW PACT AND NATO FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

5. AT THE LAST INFORMAL SESSION OF THE ROUND ON APRIL 13, EASTERN REPS AGAIN TRIED TO REFUTE WESTERN CHANGES THAT POSITIONS TAKEN EARLIER BY THE EAST WERE NOT CONSISTENT WITH PRESENT EASTERN CLAIMS OF APPROXIMATE PARITY BETWEEN WARSAW PACT AND NATO MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE REDUCTION AREA. THEY SAID WESTERN ESTIMATES OF WARSAW PACT FORCES WERE WRONG BECAUSE THEY WERE BASED ON INCORRECT COUNTING METHODS. IN INDICATING THEIR READINESS TO CONTINUE THE COUNTING RULES AND DATA DISCUSSION WHEN THE TALKS RESUMED, EASTERN REPS NOTED THAT ACCEPTANCE OF THEIR PROPOSAL TO TABLE NATIONAL TOTALS WOULD HELP TO IDENTIFY THE SOURCES OF WESTERN COUNTING ERRORS. AS REGARDS THE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENERAL, EASTERN REPS ATTACKED THE WEST FOR NOT MAKING ANY NEW MOVES TO REVISE ITS OBVIOUSLY UNACCEPTABLE REDUCTION APPROACH. THEY PRESSED HARD FOR THE WEST TO AGREE WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY TO A MANPOWER FREEZE AS PROPOSED BY THE EAST.

6. WESTERN REPS AT THE APRIL 13 INFORMAL SESSION BRIEFLY RESTATED THE WESTERN POSITION ON ASSOCIATED MEASURES AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT EASTERN REPS WOULD FOLLOW-UP THEIR COMMENTS MADE AT THE APRIL 4 SESSION BY JOINING IN A GENUINE DIALOGUE ON THIS TOPIC IN THE NEXT ROUND. IN SUMMARIZING THE DATA DISCUSSION TO DATE, WESTERN REPS HIGHLIGHTED THE MAJOR INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN PREVIOUS EASTERN POSITIONS AND EASTERN DATA AND MADE CLEAR THAT THEY WERE NOT SATISFIED THAT THE

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EAST HD ACTUALLY USED THE SAME COUNTING RULES AS THE WEST OR APPLIED THEM IN THE SAME WAY. THEY RESTATED THE WESTERN POSITION THAT THE DATA DISCUSSION SHOULD PROCEED TO AN EXAMINATION OF US AND SOVIET MANPOWER FIGURES. WESTERN REPS REPEATED THEIR OBJECTIONS TO THE EASTERN PROPOSAL FOR AN IMMEDIATE FREEZE ON MANPOWER IN THE AREA AND AGAIN LISTED THE CONDITIONS WHICH ANY SUCH NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT MUST MEET TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE WEST.

7. ON APRIL 15, THE AD HOC GROUP APPROVED A REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR SUBMISSION TO NATO MINISTERS AT THEIR MAY MEETING. IN IT, THE GROUP STATED THAT THE MOST URGENT NEGOTIATING REQUIREMENT CURRENTLY CONFRONTING THE WEST WAS FOR ALLIED AGREEMENT ON HOW BEST TO FURTHER THE EFFORT IN VIENNA TO IDENTIFY THE SOURCES OF THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN EASTERN MANPOWER DATA AND NATO ESTIMATES AND TO

INDUCE THE EAST TO ACKNOWLEDGE A SIGNIFICANT MANPOWER DIS-PARITY IN ITS FAVOR.

8. THE VIENNA TALKS ARE SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE THE WEEK OF MAY 9. RESOR

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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